

Even during these trouble economic times, more than \$228,903 has been raised already this year.

However, this is a federally protected species and California cannot go it alone. In addition to continuing to work with my colleagues to secure Federal funds to support a continued and complete recovery of the population, I am proud that H.R. 556, The Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act, was passed by the House of Representatives in July of 2009. This tremendous success was buoyed by the support and devotion of many people. In the other house, Senator BARBARA BOXER has introduced a companion bill, S. 1748, which passed out of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation on June 9 by unanimous consent. The Committee hopes to move the bill later this year as a part of their omnibus public lands legislative package. We are just a few steps away from at last making the act into law and bringing needed resources to this threatened species.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of Defenders of Wildlife, who carry out the important mission to preserve our nation's wildlife and habitat. I also applaud the other nonprofit environmental organizations, working with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, researchers, fishermen, state and federal agencies, schools, and many other institutions and individuals, who devote tremendous effort to protect and recover the southern California sea otter. Sea Otter Awareness Week is just one of their many activities geared towards honoring and saving this species, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

IN HONOR OF BILL TOBIN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute today to Bill Tobin, the incoming President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA). President Tobin began his career in the DVFA as a mascot in the Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company in 1959. In 1975 he moved to Lewes, where he joined the Lewes Volunteer Fire Department.

President Tobin's life has been dedicated to serving others. Along with his membership in the Lewes Fire Department, Bill served as President for the Georgetown American Legion Ambulance Company and later became active with the Memorial Volunteer Fire Department in Slaughter Beach. He has served Memorial well in the role of both Treasurer and as Chairman of the Board of Directors since 2000.

I commend President Tobin on his dedication to Delaware's volunteer fire service and tireless efforts on behalf of his community. DVFA is fortunate to have such a man filling this important role. I am confident that President Tobin's experience and leadership will help DVFA continue on the path of exceptional service for which they are known across our state.

REMEMBERING ROBERT P. BILLER

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Robert Biller of La Canada, California. Bob was a gifted educator and passionate advocate for the students of California, and it is with a grateful heart I remember him today.

Bob received his bachelor's degree from University of California, Los Angeles in 1959 and spent the next several years serving his country as the administrator at the U.S. Naval Ordinance Test Station in China Lake, California. He would go on to earn his master's and doctorate degrees from University of Southern California in 1965 and 1969, respectively, winning recognition from his peers and the Henry Reining Jr. Dissertation Award for his dissertation in public administration.

Bob began his professional career in academia teaching at the University of California, Berkeley, where he helped establish the Graduate School of Public Policy and its Experimental Program in Health and Medical Sciences. He returned to USC in 1976, serving as the Dean of Public Administration until 1982. During this time, Bob raised the standard of education for the public administration program and raised the school's first one million dollar endowment as well as serving in leadership roles with the Deans' Council and the Budget Advisory Committee. Bob spent the next twenty years serving in various roles at USC including Executive Vice Provost (1982–1988), Dean of Fine Arts (1987), Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid (1988–1989), Vice President for External Affairs (1988–1992), Vice President for Undergraduate Affairs (1992–1993), Interim Dean of the School of Policy, Planning and Development (1998–2000) and he continued to be actively involved in university life after his official retirement in 2001.

Madam Speaker, it is without a doubt that through his commitment to education and service Bob Biller made USC a better place and its students better off. On behalf of the countless students whose lives he touched, it is my privilege to rise today in recognition of the many accomplishments and contributions of Robert Biller.

TAIWAN'S 99TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taiwan as it celebrates its 99th National Day on October 10th, 2010. This national holiday, known as Double Ten Day, commemorates the 1911 uprising that led to the creation of the Republic of China.

After years of one-party rule, Taiwan has held three democratic presidential elections and two transfers of power. I am very excited to see this young democracy blossoming in East Asia.

During an address earlier this year, Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou offered this

statement, "It is only under a true democracy that one's citizens can live without fear according to the law, and share in the burdens as well as benefits of good governance."

While Taiwan is a young democracy, it has taken steps to conform to international standards with respects to rule of law and protection of human rights. To this end, Taiwan has codified the following United Nation's documents into domestic law; The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Taiwan's budding commitment to democratic practices is impressive. I look forward to the United States partnering with President Ma and Taiwan for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF STAFF SERGEANT JAMIE WEST

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous and selfless actions of Army Staff Sergeant Jamie West, which have earned him our Nation's highest congressionally authorized award for heroism during peacetime. As a member of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee, I am proud to recognize one of Fort Carson's finest soldiers who placed his own life at risk to save the lives of three Colorado Springs children in 2008. While driving off-duty on February 23, 2008, Staff Sergeant Jamie West observed three children fall through a fragile ice-pond and one of those children becoming completely submerged in the freezing water. The Soldier's Medal citation reads, "Without thought to his own safety, he decided to attempt to rescue the endangered children. With ice crumbling around him and at risk to his own life, he pulled the children from the water and successfully administered first aid until emergency personnel arrived."

Every soldier knows the importance of courage. It is one of the Army's seven core values of soldiering. Courage on and off the battlefield cannot be underestimated. It takes courage to withstand the rigors of war and it takes courage to assume responsibility for life and death decisions. It also takes courage to do the right thing under intense pressure, but the act of courage at the risk of one's own life deserves special recognition.

The pages of American military history are filled with heroes who willingly put their lives at risk in order to save others—and Staff Sergeant West's name will now be inscribed among them.

It was no accident that SSG West was in the vicinity of that pond at the time of crisis. It is clear that, for some providential purpose, he was in the right place at the right time and had demonstrated great courage and personal sacrifice. It is my distinct honor to recognize his heroic actions and commitment to uphold the finest qualities of leadership and military values.